



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
NORTHWICH. *Cush*

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH.

1897.

Urban District of Northwich.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

Population at Census 1891, 14,914.

Estimated Population at middle of 1897, 18,100.

Area in Acres, 1,758.

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 39·1.

Death Rate per 1,000 living, 19·55.

Death Rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases, 3·09.

Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births, 182.

During 1897 the number of births was 718, and the number of deaths registered was 368. Twenty-four of the deaths occurred in the Workhouse, and five in the Victoria Infirmary. Fourteen of these deaths were of persons not belonging to this district. They have been added to the number of deaths in their own districts, making the corrected total for Northwich Urban District 354 instead of 368. Of the 24 deaths occurring in the Workhouse, 16 were persons over 65 years of age. Nineteen deaths were the subject of an inquest.

The number of births registered in the first quarter was 181, in the second 203, in the third 162, and in the last 172. Of this number 370 were males and 348 females. The number of deaths (deducting those not belonging to this district) in the first quarter was 97, in the second 97, in the third 87, and in the last 73. The death rate in the four quarters was respectively 21·4, 21·4, 19·2, and 16·1.

The Zymotic Death Rate was 3·09 per thousand, the total number of deaths being 56. Ten of these were from scarlet fever, 4 diphtheria, 3 typhoid fever, 3 measles, 14 whooping cough, and 22 diarrhoea. Of the 13 deaths during the first quarter, 5 were from whooping cough, 4 scarlatina, 2 diarrhoea, and 2 diphtheria. Of the 17 during the second quarter, 8 were from whooping cough, 6 scarlet fever, 2 diarrhoea, and 1 measles. Of the 20 during the third quarter, 17 were diarrhoea, 2 typhoid fever, and 1 measles; and of the 6 during the last quarter, 2 were from diphtheria, and 1 each from typhoid fever, measles, whooping cough, and diarrhoea. It will be seen that the bulk of the deaths were from whooping cough and diarrhoea.

In addition to these, two deaths were registered from puerperal fever, one in September and one in April.

Infant Mortality.—131 of the deaths registered were infants under one year of age. Of these deaths, 35 were from convulsions, 27 from inflammation of the stomach and bowels and diarrhoea, 20 from diseases of the lungs, 10 from marasmus, 10 premature birth, 3 malformation at birth, 6 tubercular diseases, 5 whooping cough, 3 syphilis, 2 scarlatina, 1 each of the following, viz., diphtheria, meningitis, jaundice, pemphigus, leucocythæmia, idiotcy, burns, two were suffocated, and one found dead in bed.

Of these 131 deaths, 84 were under six months of age at the time of death. Thirty-one were registered during the first quarter, 29 during the second, 43 during the third, and 28 during the last. The chief factor causing the larger number during the third quarter was the epidemic of diarrhoea.

The proportion of deaths of infants to births was equal to 182 per thousand in 1897; in the three preceding years it averaged 161 per thousand.

Infectious Diseases.—The total number of infectious diseases notified was 170 (being less by 73 than during last year). The numbers from each disease were as follows:—Scarlatina *141, erysipelas *12, typhoid fever 8, diphtheria 6, and puerperal fever 3. Of these cases two were treated in the isolation hospital at Wade Brook, the one being an infant suffering from scarlatina, the mother being also admitted to nurse and attend it. The other was a male adult suffering from typhoid fever; two special nurses were engaged

*73 of the scarlatina and 7 of the erysipelas occurred in one practice.

to nurse him. Both cases recovered, and were kept and treated entirely at the Council's expense.

There has been adopted a plan of notifying all infected houses to the free library; and already several books have been withdrawn from circulation on leaving infected houses, which otherwise would have escaped observation.

Of the total number during the year the following numbers show how many fresh cases were reported during each month, the figures showing respectively the months in natural sequence:—18, 15, 35, 36, 6, 6, 9, 6, 5, 18, 4, 12.

A glance at the figures shows that the bulk of the cases were in the first four months of the year.

Scarlet Fever.—There have been 141 cases of this disease reported during the year, against 205 during last year. There were only 10 deaths, 4 being in the first quarter and 6 in the second. Four were certified as due simply to scarlatina, and 6 to complications and sequelæ.

Three of the deaths were of children under two years of age. Gross carelessness and neglect on the part of patients and parents is shown by the little trouble or care they will take to prevent invalids from contact with healthy persons. Two flagrant cases of this nature were reported. No prosecution was taken, but in one, where a man having the disease went out on several occasions and travelled in a public vehicle, after being repeatedly warned by both the Medical Officer and Inspector, he was written to by the Clerk and warned of the penalties he incurred.

Six cases which broke out in a terrace of three houses away from any other house seemed at first unaccountable, but on making a careful enquiry I ascertained that a boy had been staying at one of the houses, who, a week or two previously, had been suffering from a "bad cold" and been "very red." Here undoubtedly was the origin, and it illustrates how these slight cases do much mischief when unrecognized.

During December the children living in one house were notified as suffering from scarlatina. The house was situated on the outskirts of this Council's district, and the disease was probably imported from outside. The house was converted into a temporary hospital, the occupier being kept at home from his work, his wages being paid by the Council. No other case occurred in the vicinity.

Typhoid Fever.—8 cases of this disease were notified, 2 only being females. Two cases were reported in the first quarter, one proving fatal nearly 6 months after notification; 2 in the third quarter, one of which also proved fatal; and 4 in the last quarter. One also of these proved fatal; the occupation of the victim was that of a nightsoilman, and his age 19. It should be borne in mind that such an occupation should not be followed by young men on account of their being more susceptible to the typhoid infection. It is a significant fact that nearly all the cases of typhoid fever are on the north side of the river, and that defective drainage was found on the premises in nearly every case. Of the 3 who died all were males, aged respectively 37, 36, and 19.

Puerperal Fever.—3 cases of puerperal fever have occurred during the year, 2 deaths being registered from this cause, one in May and one in September. A case was notified in May which recovered.

One of these cases which died was not notified, but it was registered as “puerperal peritonitis,” a disease which is usually included under the head of puerperal fever.

Erysipelas.—12 cases have been notified, but none have proved fatal, and nothing in the shape of an epidemic was opened, the cases having no connection with each other.

Measles.—There has certainly been a considerable number of cases of measles during the year, but how many is only conjectural.

Two deaths were registered, one in July and one in November; both were males and between 1 and 2 years of age.

Diphtheria.—6 cases have been notified, 3 in the first quarter and 3 in the last. Of these 4 cases proved fatal; a male and a female in the first quarter both aged 2 years, and in the last quarter a male aged 10 months and a female aged 57 years.

Of the 2 last, one almost certainly infected the other, but the other cases were separate and apparently sporadic.

Whooping Cough.—This disease was prevalent during the first half of the year. Fifteen deaths were recorded, all in the first and second quarters, and one case during December. All the cases were children under 5 years of age.

Diarrhœa.—20 deaths have been recorded from this disease of infants under 5 years and 2 of persons over that age. The bulk of the cases were in August and September, 10 being in the former and

7 in the latter. During August, in addition to the above, 5 deaths were certified as due to enteritis, which should in all probability be classed as diarrhœa owing to some confusion in nomenclature.

Influenza.—Not one death has been ascribed either directly or indirectly to this disease.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.—These two diseases of the lungs have been responsible for 54 deaths during the year, against 51 during last year. The annual death-rate from these causes is equivalent to 2·9 per thousand living.

Injuries.—10 deaths have been due to accidents and injuries. Two were in the Victoria Infirmary, one being a machinery accident and the other a fracture of the spine. The other injuries were due—1 to a machinery accident, 1 to a fall downstairs, 1 to a burn, 2 to suffocation, 1 to drowning, and 1 caused concussion of the brain. An inquest was held in each instance. Three other inquests were held, the verdicts being Diarrhœa, Natural Causes, and Syncope.

There have been many improvements in the town during the year, and considerable lengths of sewers have had to be re-laid owing to subsidence. The sewers in the lower part of the town need attention badly, and a scheme is being planned to improve them.

Many clusters of dirty and dilapidated closets have been reconstructed, and a vast improvement has been accomplished by the paving of certain streets. Others are also in course of being paved.

There have been about 100 new houses built, most of them being put up on the water carriage system.

There is a want of public sanitary conveniences in the town and also in the Verdin Park, those in the latter being quite inadequate for the number of persons who resort to the park and baths.

The slaughter-houses of the district have been registered and many improved very much. Three have been closed altogether; one has been practically rebuilt, and extensive alteration made to another one which the Medical Officer considered unfit for the purpose of a slaughter-house. Many infractions of the by-laws were observed and stopped, and many minor alterations carried out.

I should here like to point out that though some of the slaughter-houses were faulty and badly kept, others were beyond reproach; and I feel this my duty because my remarks on the bad condition of *some few* of the slaughter-houses were, by mistake, reported as referring to *all* the slaughter-houses in the district.

HY. E. GOUGH.

Feb. 10th, 1898.

[A] Table of DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Northwich Urban

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)				
	At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards. (h)		Smallpox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Croup. 4
Urban District	339	131	52	18	5	81	52	{ Under 5 5 upwards	... 8 ... 2	3 1	... ...
Union Workhouse	24	2	...	...	1	5	16	{ Under 5 5 upwards	... ...	...	... ...
Victoria Infirmary.....	5	...	...	1	1	3	...	{ Under 5 5 upwards.	... ...	...	... ...
TOTALS...	368	133	52	19	7	89	68	{ Under 5 5 upwards	... 8 ... 2	3 1	... ...

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	{ Under 5 ... 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	14	2	...	1	3	4	4	{ Under 5 ... 5 upwards	...	...	...	...

[B] Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases
Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Northwich Urban

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF KNOWLEDGE			
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.	Registered Births.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.
	(a)	(b)	(c)		(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4
Northwich Urban District...	14,914	18,100	718	{ Under 5 ... 5 upwards }	...	141	6	...
TOTALS.....	14,914	18,100	718	{ Under 5 ... 5 upwards }	...	141	6	...

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—Yes.

District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS
OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

FEVERS.																		Total.
Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Tubercular other than Phthisis.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	20	...	1	30	...	16	5	83	183
...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	3	15	19	24	1	5	79	156
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	6	2	...	11	22
...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	5
...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	5
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	20	...	1	30	...	17	5	84	185
...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	3	16	21	30	4	7	92	183

Area and Population of the District or Division
to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres, 1,758.

Population (Last Census) 14,914.

(Estimated to middle of 1897) 18,100.

Death Rates	General	.....	19.55	{	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897.
	Infant (under one year of age)		...182	{	per 1,000 Births Registered.

in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

FEVERS.															FEVERS.									
Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued. 7	Relapsing. 8	Puerperal. 9	Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	12	13	Smallpox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Croup. 4	Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued. 7	Relapsing. 8	Puerperal. 9	Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	12	13			
...	8	...	...	3	...	12	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	3	...	12	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Since when?—1891. Building at Wade Brook used as Isolation Hospital.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

NORTHWICH DISTRICT COUNCIL,

13th January, 1898.

To Dr. GOUGH, Medical Officer of Health.

Systematic Inspection.—This has been carried out at regular periods throughout the year, and a fair amount of work done which cannot be entered in this report. You have seen some of this work when you have visited the district.

Abatement of Nuisances.—I have served eighty-one notices for the abatement of nuisance. These consist of leaky pails, defective cesspools, defective ashpits, stopped drains, &c. In addition to these there have been a number of other works carried out without notices being served:—Gladstone Street, five new ashpits; Moreton place, all new ashtubs; Chester Road, 2 w.c.'s and 2 cesspools converted into pail closets and the old cesspool done away with; Leicester Street, two new pail closets and two new ashpits. The whole of Padgett's property in Manchester Road has been reconstructed and the old cesspools done away with, the houses being properly ventilated by a through current of air. Winnington's Court has been properly drained and proper gully traps fixed. The sewer in Warrington Road has been lifted and relaid; also the upper part of Leicester Street has been resewered. The lower part of Witton Street has been opened, cleaned, and relaid. Apple Market Street has been resewered.

Excrement and House Refuse.—The Contractors are carrying out their work in a most efficient manner. I should, however, advise the Council to get their own horses and carts and do the work themselves—it gives more satisfaction to all concerned.

Infectious Disease.—I have received 166 notifications of infectious disease, which is less than last year. We entered this year with only two infected houses in the Council's district. The notifications for the past year are as follows:—Scarlatina 140, erysipelas 9, diphtheria 8, typhoid 8, and 1 peurperal. Each house in its turn has been disinfected.

Small-Pox.—This disease has not visited Northwich during the past two years.

Hospital.—The marquee and engine room still exist at Wade Brook, doing duty for a hospital. Three cases have received treatment in the engine room.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have been visited every three months throughout the year and limewashed according to the Act.

Slaughter-houses.—These have been visited monthly. They are clean and in good order. The registration of them will be completed as soon as the alterations are carried out.

Lodging-houses.—These have been visited periodically during the year. There has been no infringement of the Lodging-house Acts.

Canal Boats.—The canal boats have been inspected, and found to be in accordance with the Canal Boat Acts.

Legal Proceedings.—Only one case has been heard before the justices for the abatement of a nuisance during the year.

(Signed) CHARLES POTTS,

Sanitary Inspector.

